

species, some of them, in our opinion, without sufficient reason, for though they are undoubtedly closely allied representative forms, no evidence of intergradation is brought forward. The new *Corapipo* also seems to us worthy of specific rank. On the other hand *Saltator intermedius* and *Astragalinus columbianus* are granted binomials.

The list of species and subspecies is so nearly complete that we have noticed the omission of only one form, *Sayornis nigricans nigricans*, for which there are two authentic Costa Rican records.

While *Ceryle inda* and *Tyrannus dominicensis* have apparently never been taken within the limits of this list, both have been found common at Greytown, Nicaragua, just across the line, and there can be no doubt of their occurrence in Costa Rica.

The occurrence of *Stelgidopteryx serripennis serripennis* as a breeding species is noteworthy, but it may be well to again call attention to the fact that the presence of black on the under tail coverts is not necessarily an indication of intergradation with any of the other forms of *Stelgidopteryx*, as this is a variation known to occur throughout the bird's range.

Very few if any typographical errors are discoverable, and the orthography of the scientific names, revised by Mr. Todd, is almost above criticism. There are a few inconsistencies in the gender endings not corrected in the "Errata," but few works are altogether free from these trifling defects.

The system of nomenclature is consistently trinomial, but in some cases where the specific name should be repeated to indicate the typical subspecies it has not been done.

Phainoptila is wrongly placed in the Ampelidæ; *Falco columbarius* is interpolated between *F. albicularis* and *F. aurantius*, which appear in the Key as *F. ruficularis* and *F. deiroleucus*; the Brown Pelican stands as *Pelecanus fuscus* instead of *P. occidentalis*.

The mere mention of these slight errors unduly magnifies their importance. Few of them are of any consequence and they do not detract from the general excellence of the work.

The absence of an index is an omission for which the author is probably not responsible. Doubtless there is one supplied with the complete volume of the 'Annals' from which this paper is reprinted, but a work of the size and importance of this deserves an index of its own.—W. DeW. M.

Ferry on a Collection of Birds from Costa Rica.¹—This is an annotated list of 74 species collected by the author in Costa Rica during January, February, and March, 1908, at various localities on the Atlantic slope, mainly at Guaybo, Coliblanco, and Turrialba. The annotations often include interesting notes on the habits and haunts of a number

¹ Catalogue of a Collection of Birds from Costa Rica. By John Farwell Ferry, Assistant, Division of Ornithology. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Orn. Ser., Vol. I, No. 6, pp. 257-282. "September, 1910."

of the species listed. The paper is posthumous, Mr. Ferry having died February 11, 1910, at the beginning of what seemed a promising scientific career (*cf.* Auk, XXVII, April, 1910, pp. 240, 241).—J. A. A.

'A Naturalist in the Bahamas.'—A volume with this title,¹ just published, contains a biographical sketch, by the editor, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, and the collected papers of the late Dr. John I. Northrop, who died, full of promise for an eminent career as a scientific investigator and teacher, at the early age of 29 years, June 25, 1891, his death resulting from the accidental explosion of alcohol. Dr. Northrop was interested in a wide range of subjects, including ornithology, and at the time of his death was an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union. In 1890 he, with his wife, visited the Bahamas, where he spent six months in making collections in nearly all branches of natural history. Among the birds he obtained was a new species of *Icterus* (*I. northropi* Allen), described and figured in 'The Auk' (Vol. VII, October, 1890, pp. 344-346, pl. i, colored). He made a collection of 75 species of birds on Andros Island, an account of which was published by him, also in this journal (Vol. VIII, 1891, pp. 64-80). Besides these papers the present volume contains an account of the flora and a narrative of the Bahama trip by Mrs. Northrop, and a large number of papers by various specialists on the invertebrates collected by Dr. Northrop on the Bahama expedition, in addition to papers by Dr. Northrop and Dr. and Mrs. Northrop jointly, on a variety of scientific subjects—geological and botanical as well as zoological.

In Professor Osborn's appreciative notice of Dr. Northrop he states that the finished and unfinished work he left behind him "gave evidence of acute powers of observation, of painstaking study, and of strict regard for truth in the recording of facts"; and adds that he "had in mind the ultimate publication of a volume on the Bahamas which would embody the results of his work there and of other contemplated trips to the islands." The present memorial volume was planned to carry out this project, so far as possible, and it is hoped that through it "the memory of his labors and activities, brief as they were permitted to be, may live, and the influence of his example be handed down to future generations of the students of Columbia and of other universities."—J. A. A.

Cooke's 'Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds.'²—The 85 recognized forms of Shorebirds (Limicolæ)—76 species

¹ A Naturalist in the Bahamas | John I. Northrop | October 12, 1861-June 25, 1891 | A Memorial Volume | edited with a Biographical Introduction | by Henry Fairfield Osborn | [Seal of Columbia University] New York | The Columbia University Press | 1910—Svo, pp. xv + 281, with 37 plates and 9 text figures. The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth Avenue, New York. \$2.50 net.

² Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds. By Wells W. Cooke, Assistant, Biological Survey. Bulletin No. 35, Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Svo, pp. 100, with 4 half-tone plates. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1910. Issued October 6, 1910.